



Boston Post cane presented to Sterling Hager

By Elizabeth Banks/staff writer

GateHouse News Service

Posted Feb 24, 2012 @ 08:16 AM

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The family lived in Hopkinton from 1940 to 1965 then moved to Holliston where they remained until 2002. Then Hager returned to Hopkinton, a town, he said, that grew considerably from the days where everyone knew everyone else in town.

"I was so busy working," Hager said, "that I didn't notice the changes when I lived here. There were so few people that everyone knew everybody."

He laughed remembering that in 1940 he lived on a small dead-end street off Hopkinton's center. Despite the street's size, Hager said, it was called an avenue.

Hager worked for several local companies in cost reduction and wage measurement. After five years, he figured he accomplished all he could and moved to another company. Besides, Hager said, "The best way to get a raise is to move on."

In 1975, at the age of 65, Hager retired. "I couldn't wait for that day," he said. After taking an auto repair class at Wentworth Institute, Hager filled his days doing odd jobs around the house.

He can tick off the happiest times in his life: the day he got married; the day he retired; the night he graduated from high school; the time each of his five children graduated from college.

He isn't happy about being 100 years old. Isn't happy about the hearing aid he recently started wearing. But he is happy to have his daughter live with him and to fill his days with music from the '20s, '30s and '40s – the music he enjoys best.

"Music," he said, "is the best medicine in the world. I've recorded wonderful music and that's what keeps me alive."

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